which included Culture and Science and Technology? Is the Government thinking of creating an integrated system by which these three or four Ministries can work together, and they should not become water-tight compartments within those Ministries?

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Sir, I think, the hon. Member has made a very good suggestion and the Ministry of Culture would talk to its counterpart in different Ministries. We will formulate a policy as to how culture can be integrated with education, agriculture and various other Departments.

Central grant for saline embankments in Orissa

*165. SHRI B.J. PANDA:††
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has requested the Centre for grant of Rs. 750 crore flood aid to meet the losses caused by the recent floods;

(b) whether the State Government of Orissa has also approached the Centre for financial assistance for construction of saline embankments on the entire coastline and dredging in the river mouths etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the help that has so far been provided to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As informed by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Orissa has submitted two memoranda, first memorandum seeking additional Central assistance of Rs. 306.70 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund for relief operation in the areas affected by heavy rains/ floods in July, 2007 and subsequently second memorandum seeking additional Central assistance of Rs. 1093.53 crore for floods of August-September, 2007.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal amounting to Rs. 190 crore for financial assistance for construction of saline embankments to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) for consideration of World Bank assistance.

Besides the above, a proposal submitted by the State Government for dredging of river mouths of river Mahanadi and Devi under Mahanadi Basin Development Programme amounting to Rs. 89.16 crore was examined in Central Water Commission and comments have been conveyed to the State Government.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, supplementaries are supposed to enable me to ask follow-up questions, but, regrettably, my basic question itself as to how much help has been extended to the State for flood relief and for dredging has not been answered. So, I must repeat the question to the hon. Minister. How much of the requested funding from the State Government has,

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B.J. Panda.

actually, been released to them and related to that, what is that based on? Irrespective of how much money has been released, what is that based on? What is the information on how many districts, how many people have been affected, how many lives have been lost and what is the connection between the funds that have been released?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, initially, I would say that this question doesn't pertain to my Ministry. But I am here to answer any question. Sir, sometimes, the difficulty arises from the fact that while the Centre wants to help the State, the State does not respond to the query or information that is sought here. I have the first memorandum in my hand from the State Government of Orissa. It was for Rs. 306.70 crore, and while it was examined here, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team consisting of seven senior ... *(Interruptions)*... I am answering. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am answering the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, इन्होंने क्वेश्चन को लिया ही क्यों ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति: आप जवाब सुन लीजिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, यह बुनियादी सवाल है। मंत्री महोदय कहते हैं कि यह सवाल उनके मंत्रालय से संबंधित नहीं है। मेरा आपसे प्रश्न है कि उन्होंने यह सवाल लिया ही क्यों ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री सभापति: पाणि साहब, आप जवाब सुन लीजिए।

प्रो॰ सैफुद्दीन सोज़: पाणि साहब, मैंने यह कहा, मैं हर क्वेश्चन का जवाब दे दूंगा, आप जरा सब्र कीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)

मेरा यह कहना है कि तुरन्त वहां इंटर मिनिस्ट्रियल टीम गई, जिसमें 7 बड़े अफसर गए थे जिन्होंने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से बात की और उन्होंने रिपोर्ट दे दी। Then, a high-level Committee headed by Agriculture Minister examined the proposal on 6th October पहला इंस्टॉलमेंट 59.33 करोड़ का सैंक्शन हो गया, लेकिन देखा गया कि पहले सेंट्रल ने Calamity Relief Fund से जो पैसे दिए थे उसका 75 फीसदी हिस्सा स्टेट के पास था, जो 87.915 करोड़ बनता था। Therefore, further funding was not made available. उसके बाद उनका दूसरा प्रपोजल आ गया। वह प्रपोजल 1093.53 करोड़ का था जिसकी scrutiny जारी है। इसके लिए सेंट्रल टीम ने तुरन्त जाकर 25 से 27 अक्तूबर तक वहां स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से बात करके अपनी रिपोर्ट दे दी तथा वह रिपोर्ट इसके मुताल्लिक जो कमेटी बनाई गई है, उसके सामने है। एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर की सदारत में जो कमेटी है वह उसको देखेगी और मेरी उम्मीद है कि अगले हफ्ते में यह पैसा रिलीज किया जाएगा।

†[پروفیسر سیف الدین سوز : پانی صاحب، میں نے یہ کہا، میں ہر کوشچن کا جواب دے دوں گا، آپ ذرا صبر کیجئے۔مداخلت۔

میرا یہ کہنا ہے کہ فورا وہاں انٹر منسٹریل ٹیم گئی، جس میں 7 بڑے افسر گئے تھے جنہوں نے اسٹیٹ گوورنمنٹ سے بات کی اور انہوں نے رپورٹ دے دی Then, a high-level Committee headed by Agriculture Minister examined the proposal on 6th October پہلا انسٹالمینٹ 59.33کروڑ کا سینکشن ہو گیا لیکن دیکھا گیا کہ پہلے سینٹرل نے National Calamity Contingency Fund سے جو پیسے دئے تھے اس کا 75 فیصد حصہ اسٹیٹ کے پاس تھا، جو 87.915 کروڑ بنتا تھا was not made available.]†

†[Transliteration in Urdu Script]

†[Therefore, further funding 193.53 اس کے بعد ان کا پورا پرپوزل ا گیا] وہ پرپوزل 25 کروڑ کا تھا جس کی اسکروٹنی جاری ہے۔ اس کے لئے سینٹرل ٹیم نے فورا جاکر 27 سے اکتوبر تک وہاں اسٹیٹ گوورنمنٹ سے بات کرکے اپنی رپورٹ دے دی اور وہ رپورٹ اس کے متعلق جو کمیٹی بنائی گئی ہے، اس کے سامنے ہے۔ ایگری کلچر منسٹر کی صدارت میں جو کمیٹی ہے وہ اس کو دیکھے گی اور میری امید ہے کہ اگلے ہفتے میں یہ پیسہ ریلیز کیا جائے گا۔]†

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, my question as to how many districts and lives have been affected was not answered. I would like to bring to the hon. Minister's attention and to this House's attention to this news item. This is from a major national newspaper of October 1st. Sir, 25 lakh people have been affected, 95 lives have been lost; 3580 villages have been hit. My point, Sir, is that in the last three years, the floods that have repeatedly affected Orissa simply have not got a response from the Central Government, and these floods are caused by the lack of dredging, by the condition of the rivers and the dams and these are interconnected.

My point, Sir, is that repeatedly these pleas have been made by the State Government and we just do not get enough response. Sir, the Prime Minister himself last year was stranded in Bhubaneswar when he visited Orissa because for two days the thunderstorms and the rains were so strong that he could not move out of Bhubaneswar. He has personally seen the condition of the State, and, yet, we do not get response from the Central Government.

Sir, my follow-up supplementary question is, in the last three years we have had repeated floods. What were the requests made by the State Government and how much funding has been released in each of the last three years?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: As far as the aspect related to funding is concerned, Sir, I have answered the question. It is being examined finally. ....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, for three years. ... *(Interruptions)*... It is being examined for three years!

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Mr. Panda's question can be answered within the parameters of the question that has been raised. Now you say that we are not responding. That is not a fact. You raised the question about saline embankments. This is being examined and the Government of India is taking up the matter with the World Bank also. You also raised the question of dredging. We are in touch with the Orissa Government and all facilities will be provided. As far as the disaster and sufferings of the people is concerned, I share your concern, and if I have the permission of the House, I can say at this moment that I could generate a situation of hope here; this is a very vital question. We must refuse to wait for the monsoons to cause floods in the country. Therefore, it was my privilege to go to the Cabinet with a comprehensive proposal on flood management. It is in the post-monsoon period that we could build the embankment and do whatever we have to do so that parts of Bihar, Assam and North Bengal and other areas are not submerged. Fortunately, Cabinet has agreed with me in principle and we are going to respond to the situation. The country must refuse to wait for floods. I had promised the Assam Chief Minister, Mr. Gogoi and all the members of that region that as soon as the floods recede, I would visit that area. I went to Jorhat, I went to Dibrugarh and I went to Majuli. That island is very precious as it has got a 600 year-old Vishnu Temple and it is a cultural heritage. So, I went to Majuli and, I am not bragging, but the

†[Transliteration in Urdu Script]

Assam Tribune or some other paper said that after Fakruddin Ali Ahmed, I was the first person to visit Majuli. So, in Assam, it is not for nothing that I generated a situation of hope.

Thus, we need flood management rather than flood control. Disaster management is different; It deals with how many families have been affected, how much aid has been given and how much money has been given. That is done at the spur of the moment; at that moment, my Ministry could not do anything. But once the floods have receded, it is my duty to visit these areas and cover these areas for embankments and soil erosion control under the new scheme, that is, flood management.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the mangrove forests in the coastal belt of Orissa which are getting destroyed. Is there any plan to protect them so that the salination of agricultural land could be lessened and they could be protected?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, it is rather a suggestion and it is not within the parameters of this question but I shall examine it and certainly something must be done as mangroves are very important.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, मैं इसके संबंध में यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो सरकार को मदद चाहिए, उसके संबंध में आपने इस प्रश्न में उत्तर में कुछ नहीं कहा है, लेकिन उड़ीसा सरकार ने क्या मांगा है, इसके लिए आपने जवाब दिया है। जो मांगा गया है, वह तो हम सबको मालूम है, लेकिन क्या दिया जा रहा है या क्या दिया जाएगा और कब दिया जाएगा, इस संबंध में आपके उत्तर में कोई वर्णन नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूं कि केन्द्र सरकार प्रोमिज़ करे क्योंकि उड़ीसा एक साइक्लोन प्रोन एरिया है, वहां हर वर्ष कुछ न कुछ कबाड़ा होता रहता है, उनको मदद की तत्काल आवश्यकता होती है, आप मदद देने के लिए कितनी कदम उठाएंगे, यह जानकारी दीजिए?

प्रो॰ सैफुद्दीन सोज़: जो दूसरा प्रॉपोजल एक हजार करोड़ से ज्यादा है, मैंने यह बता दिया है कि इस हफ्ते एग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्टर की सदारत में मीटिंग होगी। मैं आपके सवाल का यह जवाब दे रहा हूं कि मैं खुद इस सिलसिले में एग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्टर से मिलूंगा, ताकि उड़ीसा की तकलीफ को खत्म किया जा सके।

† [**پروفیسر سیف الدین سوز** : جو دوسرا پرپوزل ایک ہزار کروڑ سے زیادہ ہے، میں نے یہ بتا دیا ہے کہ اس ہفتے ایگری کلچر منسٹر کی صدارت میں میٹنگ ہوگی۔ میں آپ کے سوال کا یہ جواب دے رہا ہوں کہ میں خود اس سلسلے میں ایگری کلچر منسٹر سے ملوں گا، تاکہ اڑیسہ کی تکلیف کو ختم کیا جا سکے۔]

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his promise for assistance will be fulfilled, or it would happen as has happened before; even when the hon. Prime Minister had visited the State, he had announced an assistance of Rs. 200 crores but ultimately Rs. 25 crores were released. I am very happy with the concern that the hon. Minister has shown regarding saline embankment and dredging. We hope that something would happen there. I wish the hon. Agriculture Minister were also present here so that he could have replied to why the State has been discriminated against. Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh were given huge assistance while very little assistance of Rs. 25 crores has been given in this case for a similar damage. And if that is our past experience, today I don't think we would get much of assistance. Also, we always get belated assistance.

†[Transliteration in Urdu Script]

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: वित्त मंत्री हमको दें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: सुन लीजिए, सुन लीजिए।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The money that is given by the Government of India to Orissa has been wasted and not utilised properly. Now they are asking for ....*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, let the hon. Minister reply.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I can assure the hon. Member that there is no question of any discrimination. It depends on how you file facts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Expansion of Air Services in Madhya Pradesh

†*163. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals to the Central Government on 26th May and 6th December, 2006 for expansion of air services in the State;

(b) whether these proposals have been considered seriously and the results thereof;

(c) the details of proposals which are likely to be considered;

(d) by when the project for upgrading Khajuraho, Bhopal and Indore airports to international level would be completed; and

(e) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There have been requests from State Government of Madhya Pradesh for extension of runways at Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho. State Government has provided 387.50 acres, 137 acres and 355.66 acres of land respectively which has been handed over to Airports Authority of India free of cost for development of these airports for begger aircraft operations.

There is also request for provision of night landing facilities and upgradation of airport for B-737-800/AB-318/AB-319 type of aircraft operations. State Government is being requested to provide the additional land to Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances. AAI is developing and upgrading the facilities at these airports which are comparable to international standards.

(d) and (e) The airports at Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho have been included for development/upgradation in the list of 35 select non-metro airports. Airports Authority of India has plans for construction of new terminal building, new technical block cum control tower and extension of runway etc. at Bhopal airport construction of new integrated terminal building, new apron with their associated infrastructure and extension of runway at Indore airport; and construction of new apron, taxiway and new terminal building at Khajuraho airport. All these works are expected to be completed by 2009. Further, Jabalpur Airport is planned to be upgraded by provision of night landing facilities, construction of technical

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.